



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1879-10-09

Letter from Louie Strentzel to [John Muir], 1879 Oct 9.

Louie Strentzel

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October 9, 1879.

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O Friend Beloved, if ever
the dear Lord leads you out
from the depths of those blue
glacier caves, and will let me
once more look upon your face,
that I may know you are
not become only a white
wraith of the northland—there
will be no happier woman
than I in all the wide world.
Then I can rejoice with you
in all the marvelous wonder and
wildness with which your soul
has been thrilled for the summer
time of this new year.

But now! remembering you

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wrote that even you could not
in your dreams forget those
dangerous ways! I can only
think with shivering dread, and
pray for the merciful care of
God over you.

This morning when I began
to answer your letter from the
northern midnight, I had no
thought that it also would be
finished at midnight, and in Oak-
land, but so it is. Word came
that my former teacher Mrs. Colby,
who has been dangerously ill, was
much worse to day, and I brought
mother down to see her, but have
not heard to night.

I was in the State Grange meet-
ing, until eleven o'clock, yet feel too
restless for sleep, and besides, we
must cross to San Francisco early in

the morning, while the Victoria steamer
leaves at noon, - so I can send to
you only this poor note for remem-
brance. And after all, perhaps it
will never reach you, for Fate
seems to have willed only punishment
for me because I was not patient.

This last time, your letters came
while I was at Mrs. Upham's, and I
did not know until too late for the
"California." All very pleasant at
920 Valencia. Bennie and I are very
good friends. - Little Helen is well.

Papa said yesterday, to tell you
that he believes "Alaska berries are
just nothing to compare with Alhambra
Corinths and Alexandrias in October."

Mother is still quite unwell,
but is gaining strength with the cool
weather and more time for rest.

Good night, Louise